

Independence

June, 2012

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Independence NHP
143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106



Building Hours and Program Times

Independence Visitor Center..... 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Program:

“Junior Ranger Induction Ceremony” weekends at 4:00 p.m.

Liberty Bell Center..... Monday-Friday..... 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday..... 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Please note - security screening closes 5 minutes before the Liberty Bell Center closes for the evening

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Independence Square (Access to the “Square” is through security located at 5th and Chestnut Streets)

Please note - security screening closes 15 minutes before the buildings on the block close for the evening

Independence Hall..... Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday..... 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tours are offered every 15 minutes, tickets are required (no tickets are needed Sat-Sun 5:00-6:00). Free Tickets are available the morning of your visit at the Independence Visitor Center.

Congress Hall..... 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Great Essentials Exhibit in the West Wing of Independence Hall..... 9:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Old City Hall..... 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Carpenters’ Court

America’s National Park Museum Shop..... 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Carpenters’ Hall..... open Tuesday-Sunday..... 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

New Hall Military Museum..... open Wednesday- Sunday..... Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Program:

“Barnacles and Bullets” children’s program; weekends at 2:30 p.m.

Franklin Court

B. Free Franklin Post Office..... open Monday-Saturday..... 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Fragments of Franklin Court..... open Wednesday-Sunday..... Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Museum Shop..... open Wednesday-Saturday..... 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Printing Office..... 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Other Park Sites

The City Tavern..... opens at 11:30 a.m.

Declaration House..... open Wednesday-Sunday..... Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Free Quaker Meeting House..... open Wednesday-Sunday..... 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

National Constitution Center (fee charged)... open Monday-Friday..... 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

open Saturday..... 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

open Sunday..... Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank... open Wednesday-Sunday..... 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Programs:

“Bank Orientation Tour” Wed-Fri at Noon (20 min)

“Moses Williams: Cutter of Profiles” weekends at 2:00 p.m. (20 min)

“Stories of Struggle” slide show; weekends at 4:00 p.m. (30 min)

The President’s House Site Memorial..... 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Todd and Bishop White Houses..... ask at the IVC for tickets

Other NPS Sites

Deshler-Morris House..... open Friday-Sunday..... 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Edgar Allan Poe NHS..... open Wednesday-Sunday..... 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Thaddeus Kosciuszko NM..... open Wednesday-Sunday..... Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Special Events and Program Descriptions

June 1-5 - 2:00-3:00 -The Transit of Venus Independence Visitor Center Theater - When a small object in space, such as the planet Venus, passes in front of a larger object, such as the Sun, it is called a transit. In 1769 a transit of Venus was used by scientists to measure the size of our universe from the State House Yard, now called Independence Square. This phenomenon will occur again on Tuesday, June 5, 2012. Join a park ranger to learn more about the transit of 1769 and the transit of 2012.

Saturdays and Sundays in June at noon - The Committee of Five - Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank of the U.S. - Join a park ranger for a tour of the Portrait Gallery focusing on portraits of the committee members nominated to write the Declaration of Independence.

Saturdays in June (except 6/23) at 3:00 - **“What Does it Mean? (The Declaration of Independence as Political Rhetoric)”**- Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank of the U.S. – Join a park ranger for a slide program that discusses the historical background of the Declaration of Independence from the execution of Charles the First through the Enlightenment. (30 min)

Sundays in June (except 6/24) at 3:00 - **How We Celebrate** - Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank of the U.S. - Join a park ranger for a slide program that shows the 4th of July through the years from John Adam’s letter about how it would be celebrated to Susan B. Anthony’s speech on July 4, 1876, to “Yankee Doodle Dandy” and beyond. (30 min)

June 23-24 - at 3:00 - **Independence Hall and the Civil War** - Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank of the U.S. - On June 26 & 27, 1862 Colonel Charles Ellet, Jr. of Bucks County, PA lay in state in Independence Hall. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of this event, join a park ranger for a slide program highlighting the role of Independence Hall during the American Civil War. (1 hour)

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Bank Orientation Tour - Wednesday-Friday at Noon; Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank of the U.S. - Meet at the Washington Statue for a tour of some of the notable people in the gallery. (15 minutes)

Moses Williams: Cutter of Profiles - Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00; The Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank of the U.S. - Hear the amazing story of Moses Williams, who learned to operate the Physiognotrace to earn his freedom and a good living making silhouettes in Peale’s Museum. (15 minutes)

Barnacles & Bullets - Saturdays and Sundays at 2:30; New Hall Military Museum - Join a park ranger for a family friendly program about the life of an average soldier or sailor during the American revolution. (15 minutes)

Junior Ranger Induction Ceremony - Saturdays and Sundays at 4:00; Independence Visitor Center – A park ranger conducts a special ceremony for all the children who have completed our Junior Ranger booklet. (10 minutes)

Stories of Struggle - Saturdays and Sundays at 4:00; Portrait Gallery in the Second Bank of the U.S. - Join a park ranger for a slide program highlighting the stories of the people, places and events surrounding the founding and early years of the United States of America. (30 minutes)

Become a Junior Ranger

Did you know that Independence National Historical Park, the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site, the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial and the Deshler-Morris House (also known as the Germantown White House) all have Junior Ranger programs? Stop by the sites and pick up a free junior ranger publication (at Independence NHP, booklets can be obtained from a park ranger at the information desk at the Independence Visitor Center), complete the publications to earn your free junior ranger badge.



Accessibility

There are curb cuts at all street corners, and all major buildings have ramps. Photo albums at the Independence Visitor Center show upper floor views. All films are captioned; many have assisted listening and audio description. To arrange for an ASL interpreter, call (14 days in advance) (215) 597-7130.